

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5949

AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

CINCPACAF IMMEDIATE

CSAF IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SINGAPORE 3821

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, US, SN, RP

SUBJECT: A-4S TRAINING IN THE PHILIPPINES

REF: SINGAPORE 2038

1. PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, PANG TEE POW, CALLED IN AIRA TODAY TO SHOW A COPY OF A PROPOSED AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOS AND GOP ON STATIONING A RSAF SKYHAWK DETACHMENT ON CLARK AB, PHILIPPINES, FOR CONTINUATION TRAINING. THIS PROPOSED AGREEMENT WAS PREPARED BY THE GOP (GENERAL PAZ) AFTER DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE RSAF AND PAF, FORWARDED TO THE SINGAPORE AMBASSADOR IN MANILA, WHO IN TURN REQUESTED COMMENTS FROM MINDEF. COPY SHOWN AIRA HAD MINDEF'S CHANGES ADDED IN RED TYPE, WHICH PANG SAID HE WAS SURE WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE GOP.

2. THE GIST OF THE SALIENT PORTIONS OF THE FINAL AGREEMENT, AFTER MINDEF'S COMMENTS, WERE:

A. FIRST PARAGRAPH STATED RATIONALE FOR CONTINUATION TRAINING IN THE PHILIPPINES AND THAT "USG HAD GIVEN APPROVAL TO THE PROJECT."

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B. SINGAPORE MEMBERS OF THE SKYHAWK DETACHMENT WOULD BE SUBJECT TO ALL GOP LAWS AND BE UNDER JURISDICTION OF THAT GOVERNMENT. THERE WAS NO MENTION OF "ON-DUTY" OR "OFF-DUTY" APPLICATION OF THIS JURISDICTION.

C. THE PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE TASK GROUP (PAFTG) AT CLARK AB WOULD HAVE CONTROL OVER THE TRAINING ACTIVITIES OF THE RSAF DETACHMENT. THIS WOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED BY REQUIRING THE RSAF TO SUBMIT A TRAINING PLAN FOR APPROVAL THREE DAYS IN ADVANCE OF FLYING TO INCLUDE PILOT'S NAME, AIRCRAFT NUMBER, ROUTE TO BE FLOWN, TYPE OF TRAINING TO BE CONDUCTED, ETC. IN ADDITION THE PAFTG CAN INSPECT THE EQUIPMENT USED BY THE RSAF AND REQUIRE A DAILY SUMMARY OF THEIR TRAINING ACTIVITIES.

3. PANG SAID AIRA COULD HAVE A COPY OF THE AGREEMENT AFTER IT IS SIGNED BY THEIR AMBASSADOR, WHICH WOULD PROBABLY BE IN ABOUT THREE DAYS. AIRA POINTED OUT WE (THE USG) AGREED TO DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT AFTER THE GOS AND GOP HAD COME TO AN AGREEMENT, BUT HAD NOT GIVEN "APPROVAL TO THE PROJECT" (PARA 2A). PANG AGREED, BUT DID NOT SEE THE NECESSITY OF CHANGING THE FIRST PARAGRAPH OF THE AGREEMENT AS THAT WAS UNDERSTOOD. HE SAID HE WAS NOT ASKING FOR AIRA'S CONCURRENCE, BUT JUST KEEPING HIM INFORMED.

4. COMMENT: IF SIGNATURE OF THIS AGREEMENT AT THIS TIME WILL IN ANY WAY EMBARRASS CURRENT US/PHIL BASE NEGOTIATIONS, PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST (NO LATER THAN AUGUST 13). I AM QUITE PREPARED TO REQUEST MINISTER OF DEFENSE EITHER TO DELAY SIGNATURE UNTIL OUR NEGOTIATIONS ARE COMPLETED OR TO SEEK WHATEVER MODIFICATIONS MIGHT BE DESIRED. LAST APRIL I ADVISED DR. GOH IN CONNECTION WITH GOS PLANS FOR A-4 TRAINING THAT US/PHIL BASES AGREEMENT WAS A VERY SENSITIVE MATTER. (SEE REFTEL.
HOLDRIDGE

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